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A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF WOMEN'S PLIGHT IN THE NOVELS OF K.R.MEERA

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Synopsis Submitted to

Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded

For the research work leading to the award of the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

In English

Under the faculty of Humanities

PET 2020

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Introduction

Indian women novelists have made a remarkable contribution to Indian English novel. Indian English literature is an endeavour of showcasing the rare gems of Indian writing in English. Indian writers writing in English have conquered the world.

As we know that from pre-independence till now Indian English literature is fast developing. Novel has achieved an important place in pre-Independent literature, post-Independent literature and in recent times also. When we study English literature, we see that there are many male and female writers have excelled in their contribution towards literature.

Like the women poets of the post-independence period, the women novelists too form a sizable and significant school. Even more than men, women writers gifted with extra-ordinary talents, have made Indo-English literature a matter of pride to us and a source of admiration to the foreigners.

Indian women novelists have portrayed women problems with a great deal of feminine seusibility . They have touched various kinds of themes like globalization, global culture, multi-culturalism, power-politics, gender-discrimination, women suppression, persecution and feminism and have impressed upon readers.

In the field of poetry, Toru Dutta and Sarojani Naidu *(The nightingale of India)* whose poetry enchants the young and old alike, caste a spell over the readers and raises their spirits. But while their genius flourished in the field of

poetry fiction writing has reached the pinnacle of its glory with the writings of established women writers of fiction are Ruth Prawar Jhabvala, Kamala Markandaya, Nayantara Sahgal, Anita Desai, Shanta Rama Rao, Atiah Hussain, Arundhanti Roy, Suniti Nam Joshi, Kiran Desai, Jhumpa Lahiri, Anita Nair and Chitra Banerjee Diva Karuni.

Ruth Prawer Jhabvala is one of the most liveliest and most urban fiction writers. She migrated to England in the 1959 and educated in London University. Her fiction delights in the clashes between the traditional codes of conduct and modern aspirations. Her one of the great novel of modern India is *'A Backward place' (1965)*. This novel describes the struggles and sufferings of an English girl. Her other novels are *'The Nature of passion' (1956), 'The House Holder' (1960), 'To Whom she will' (1955)* became the centre of attention of readers.

Another most remarkable women writer is Nayantara Sahgal, she has been widely acclaimed for her autobiographies *'From Fear Set Free' 'Prison and chocolate cake'* and *' A time to be Happy'* Her most famous novel is *'This time of morning' (1968),* and also some other novel of her are *'Stories in Chandigrah' (1969), 'The Day is shadow' (1977)* & *'A situation in a New Delhi' (1977).*

Anita Desai occupies a distinguished place among women writers whose maiden novel *'Cry, the peacock, (1963)* put her in the front rank of contemporary novelists. Some of her other works are *'Voice in city' (1965) 'Bye-Bye Blackbird' (1971) 'Where shall we go this summer' (1975)* and *'Fire on the Mountain' (1977)* have appealed to readers. Another woman writer Shanta Rama Rau and her works that retain importance in her fictional world are

'Remember the House' (1956), 'The Adventures' (1970), 'Two sisters' (1973) and *'The Inner Door' (1976)*

Jhumpa Lahiri has won the prestigious Pulitzer prize in 2000 for her debut book*, 'The Interpreter of Maladies'* Minor Fictions writing before *1950* and *1960* witnessed women writers like Venu Chitale and Zeenuth Futehally, Historical fiction of Vimala Raina and Manorama Modal are famous. Shankuntala Shrinagesh has made Successful experiment in psychological fiction through *'The little Black Boy' (1955).*

The recent fiction has concentrated on a major theme of individual guest for the meaning of life. Among women novelists, mention must be made of Arundhati Roy, Suniti Namjoshi, Shashi Deshpande, Kiran Desai, Jhumpa Lahiri, Radhika Jha, Anita Nair and Shobha De. Arundhati Roy's has won the Booker prize which depicts social reality of discrimination between man and woman for her novel *'The God of small Things' (1997)*. Her theme of gender discrimination is realistically portrayed so that reader should understand how status is denied to women by men in male dominated society. Also Kiran Desai has won the men Booker prize for literature in 2006 for her novel *'The Inheritance o loss'*. Shashi Deshpande focuses on the reality and truth of the lives of Indian women, she received the '*Padmashri Award*' in *2009* and also won *'Sahitya Akademi Award'* in *1990* for novel *'That Long silence.'*

In this research, an attempt would be made to study a critical assessment of women plight in the select novel of K.R. Meera, K.R.Meera is and Indian author who writes in Malayalam language. K.R. Meera born on 19 february 1970 in Sasthamkotta, Kollam district in Kerala. She worked as a

journalist in Malayala Manorama later She resigned to concentrate more on writing. In 2001, she started to writing fiction and her first short story collection Ormayude Njarambu was published five collections of short stories, two novellas, five novels and two children's book.

Her book Mohamanja was published in 2004 and it was translated into English by J.Devika as Yellow is the colour of longing *(penguin. 2011)* Her widely regarded masterpiece is one of the best literary work. *'Aarchaar'* was translated into English by J.Devika as *'The Hangwoman'* :Everyone Loves a Good Hanging *(Hamish Hamilton, 2014)* She won the *Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award* in *2009* and *2013* and also she won the *odakkuzhal Award (2013), Yayalar Award (2014) and Kerala Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award (2015). Her novel Aarchaar (2012)* Trans. Hangwoman was also shortlisted for the 2016 DSC prize for South Asian literature.

Meera cites the work of a number of Indian authors as influencing her works. Meera has described her work as engaging with her political environment. She reflect on what's happening in society through her writing.

There is every possibility that the writer K.R. Meera who got acquainted with the contemporary and feministic English literature were influenced by the different themes relating to patriarchy, discrimination and individuality, focusing on the inner lives of women and challenging traditional power dynamics in her selected novels and books.

Aims and Objectives

The present work is a critical assessment of women plight in the select novels and novella of K.R Meera.

The objectives of this research work are as follows-

- Redefine the role& position of women in post.
- To present the remarkable features of K.R. Meera as an Indian women novelists in English.
- To highlight the image of women in the novels.
- To explore the theme of the feminism in K.R. Meera's selected novels.
- To find the narrative technique and author's point of view.
- To focus on reasons behind popularity of her novels and its impact on the reader.
- Analyses how courage coincides within the actions of Meera's female protagonists.
- Find out the intensity & importance of the feelings of women.
- Find out to understand how women of tomorrow will think & act.

Hypothesis of the study

This paper tries to find out and examine the role of women and their plight & struggle. K.R.Meer's themes are related to feminism, discrimination focusing on inner lives of women and challenging their power dynamics.

1. If injustice and oppression against women is reduced then women will be able to make more progress.
2. The cause of women's grief is the bondage imposed by the society & the family.

3. Mental bondage to women is more dangerous than physical abuse.

Research Methodology

The proposed work is the research on critical study of selected novels by K.R. Meera and the methodology to be adopted for the present research work would be descriptive and analytical, with the help of various printed and electronic, primary and secondary sources.

Review of literature

The available research papers on K.R.Meera's different works are analysed to findout where research gap persists available research journals articles from various websites are refereed are as follows –

1) **Evolved feminity :** An analysis on K.R. Meera's novel Aarachar by - Hareesh KG , Sreenath Muraleedharank.
2) Negotiation of Identity in K.R.Meera's Hanq woman by – Hari MG
3) Evoking the female prowees : A journal towards self realization in K.R.Meera's Aarachar by – Vidya Vijayan
4) Translation, culture and the loss of meaning in K.R.Meera's Aarachar by – Ajeesh AK, R Pranesh Kumar.
5) Regional Portrayalis in non-nativ & diasporic literature : Studies in K.R.Meera & Jhumpa Lehiri.
6) ReadingIndian woman through the writings of K.R.Meera by – M. Athira.
7) Review of literature : Women's struggle for domestic, social, political & economic spacein K.R.Meera's feminist fictions by – Rekha KG & Dr. Manjula KT
8) Hangwoman : Everybody loves a good hanging by K.R. Meera by – Abhirami Sriram

9) An Indian Author K.R.Meera who writes in Malayalam by – J.Pavani.

Research Gap :

There are many research conducted on Meera's masterpiece novels. Some of them are identify search evolved feminity, female subjectivity, existentialism are some of the common topics. A few other research papers are based on feministic perspective. This research will be the first ever to concentrate on the women's plight and the struggle of female charecters of K.R.Meeras novels like, Hangwomen, the gospel of yudas, The poison of love, the unseeing idol of light, the angel's beauty spots and the yellow is the colour of longing.

Justification of Research

The Present research work will be an attempt to analyze the various themes feminism, gender discrimination, patriarchy, lonliness, social consciousness.etc. it is very difficult for any writer to shut down from what is happening in and around society. K.R. Meera's writing is a mixture of conscious and unconscious creative thinking. So, the research will be helpful to get acquainted with various techniques and skills used by K.R. Meera and how her writing is different and explore feminism.

Data Scope and limitation

The scope for the present research deals with image and plight of womens in the K.R. Meera's select novels and books. All the available printed and electronic material will be selected for the study. It is a preliminary study of original texts. The study is limited to K.R. Meera's select novels. The present study deals with the novels of K.R. Meera from feministic point of view.

Sources of study

A) Primary sources

The Original texts will be used for the proposed work. The sources for the present research work will be used the novels of K.R. Meera in primary sources.

B) Secondary Sources

The critical works, articles, published over K.R.Meera's novels, printed and material will be used as secondary sources.

Chapterisation

For the purpose of vantage, the present study will be divided into five chapters.

Chapter one

Introduction

The first chapter of the present thesis will be significantly oferview of feminism, it's detail and its historical background. It also deals with detail study of writer K.R. Meera and the Biographical of K.R. Meera and introduction to his works and also introduction of translator of her works.

Chapter two

A] Hangwoman.

B] The gospel of yudas.

This chapter will be dealing with a conemporary masterpiece of K.R.

Meera Hangwoman and the Gospel of Yudas. It will focus on the feministic approach in the novel. It will explore Several themes like patriarcy, lonliness, discrimination. This novel is an immense, intense coiled rope of a novel.

Chapter Three

C] The unseeing idol of light

D] The poision of love

This chapter will focus on the image of womens in the novel the unseeing idol of light and the poison of love. These novels are an intense, dramatic novels written in a spare, well crafted prose. The poison of love is a meditation on toxic love with a feminist flavour.

Chapter four

E] Yellow is the colour of longing

F] The Angel's Beauty Spots.

This chapter will focus on the novel 'Yellow is the colour of longing' and a novella. 'The Angel's Beauty Spot.' Writers stories cover an amazing range and in each her idiom is inseparable from the plots and characters. Each novel and novella invoks the inner violence of contemporary society.

Chapter Five

The fifth or the last chapter concludes the present thesis. This chapter intends to sum up the arguments of earlier chapters and will ultimately come to a certain conclusion.

Probable date of Research completion.

The present research is to be by Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded.

Tentative Chapter Scheme:-

Chapter 1 : Introduction

Chaptr 2 : a) Hangwoman

b) The Gospel of Yudas

Chapter 3 : a) The unseeing idol of light

b) The poison of love.

Chapter 4 : a) Yellow is the colour of Longing

b) The Angle's Beauty Spots.

Chapter 5 : Conclusion

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Web Resources

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Book Revies: K.R. Meera borrows liberally.

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Date : / /

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